

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (currently amended) A threaded joint for steel pipes which comprises a pin and a box each having a contact surface including a threaded portion and an unthreaded metal contact portion and which has a lubricating coating on the contact surface of at least one of the pin and the box, characterized in that the lubricating coating comprises a lower lubricant layer which is in liquid form in the temperature range of above 0°C and below 40°C and an upper lubricant layer appearing on the surface of the lubricating coating which is in solid form at 40°C.

2. (currently amended) A threaded joint for steel pipes which comprises a pin and a box each having a contact surface including a threaded portion and an unthreaded metal contact portion and which has a lubricating coating on the contact surface of at least one of the pin and the box, characterized in that the lubricating coating is semi-solid or solid at 40°C and is formed of a mixture [[comprising]] consisting essentially of a lubricating oil which is liquid in the temperature range of above 0°C and below 40°C and a wax which is solid at 40°C.

3. (original) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 2, wherein the mixture further includes a solid additive.

4. (original) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 3, wherein the solid additive is one or more substances selected from a resin powder and a fatty acid metal salt.

5. (previously presented) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 2, wherein the mixture has been heated to at least the temperature at which the wax is liquefied to dissolve the wax and the lubricating oil in each other.

6. (previously presented) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 1, wherein the contact surface of at least one of the pin and the box is subjected to preliminary surface treatment.

7. (original) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 6 having the lubricating coating on the contact surface of one of the pin and the box, wherein the contact surface of the other of the pin and the box has a coating formed by preliminary surface treatment selected from plating and chemical conversion treatment with a phosphate or an oxalate.

8. (original) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 6, wherein the preliminary surface treatment is chemical conversion treatment with a phosphate or an oxalate, and wherein the lubricating coating contains a fatty acid metal salt as a solid additive.

9. (previously presented) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 4, wherein the fatty acid metal salt is one or more substances selected from alkali metal salts and alkaline earth metal salts of stearic acid or oleic acid.

10. (previously presented) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 1, wherein the lubricant layer in liquid form comprises one or more materials selected from mineral oils, synthetic ester oils, animal or vegetable oils, and basic metal salts of an organic acid.

11. (previously presented) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 3, wherein the mixture has been heated to at least the temperature at which the wax is liquefied to dissolve the wax and the lubricating oil in each other.

12. (previously presented) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 4, wherein the mixture has been heated to at least the temperature at which the wax is liquefied to dissolve the wax and the lubricating oil in each other.

13. (previously presented) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 2, wherein the contact surface of at least one of the pin and the box is subjected to preliminary surface treatment.

14. (previously presented) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 8, wherein the fatty acid metal salt is one or more substances selected from alkali metal salts and alkaline earth metal salts of stearic acid or oleic acid.

15. (previously presented) A threaded joint for steel pipes as recited in claim 2, wherein the lubricating oil comprises one or more materials selected from mineral oils, synthetic ester oils, animal or vegetable oils, and basic metal salts of an organic acid.